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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,421	04/09/2004	Peter Osyka	32469-303686	1219
43074	7590	01/29/2010		
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP PATENT DOCKETING - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (32469) 2200 WELLS FARGO CENTER 90 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3901				
EXAMINER				
BERTRAM, ERIC D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3766				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/20/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

e-OfficeActionBSC@faegre.com

djohnson2@faegre.com

rhale@faegre.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/821,421

Applicant(s)

OSPYYKA, PETER

Examiner

Eric D. Bertram

Art Unit

3766

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 19, 21, 31, 33, 45 and 48-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23, 26-30 and 51-65 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 22, 33, 36, 38-40, 43, 44 and 48-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 21, 24, 25, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42 and 45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 18, 22, 33, 36, 38-40, 43, 44 and 48-50 is withdrawn after reconsideration of the Hine reference. Rejections based on the reference follow.
2. Claims 19, 21, 24, 25, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42 and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on 9/24/2009 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Pat. No's 7,418,298, 7,499,759 and 7,499,757 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded and the double patenting rejections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 18, 22, 33, 36, 43, 44 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a,e) as being anticipated by Hine et al. (US 2003/0204231, hereinafter Hine). Hine discloses an apparatus with an anchor 204 configured to advance to myocardial tissue in a first orientation, and then anchor against an epicardial surface in a second orientation (par. 0029). The anchor may penetrate the myocardium if enough force were applied, or if the myocardium were pre-opened. A tension element 202 is attached to the anchor at a distal end, while an electrode 300 with an inner guide channel is threaded over the proximal end of the tension element and advanced towards the anchor during implantation, where it is then attached in order to secure the electrode in the heart (see figure 4 and par. 0030). The electrode has a pole 308 at the distal end for stimulating the myocardium, as well as a proximal opening that allows the proximal end of the tension element to exit therethrough.
6. Regarding claims 33 and 36, the proximal opening of the inner guide channel is considered a connection point because that is where the tension element and the electrode come together. By threading the tension element through this opening, the tension element can attach to the electrode at the distal end.
7. Regarding claim 44, Hine discloses a tool 200 for inserting the anchor that is detachably coupled to the anchor at an attachment area.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. Claims 38 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hine in view of Official Notice. Hine, as described above, discloses the applicant's basic invention with the exception of the electrode including an anode spaced apart from a cathode. However, the use of unipolar and bipolar electrodes and pacing is notoriously old and well known in the art as being interchangeable configurations for stimulating muscle tissue. One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to modify the pole to include both an anode and a cathode to allow for bipolar pacing, especially since this allows for charge balancing, which results in less pain felt by the patient.

11. Claims 39, 40 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hine in view of Wesbey et al. (US 3,244,174, hereinafter Wesbey). Hine, as

described above, discloses the applicant's basic invention with the exception of having two electrodes branching from a common supply lead for stimulating the heart.

Attention is directed to the secondary reference of Wesbey, which discloses a system for implanting multiple conductors in a heart by inserting two conductors 24 extending from a common supply lead into the myocardium of the heart, as shown in figure 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Hine by utilizing two leads extending from a common supply as taught by Wesbey in order to stimulate two locations of a muscle at the same time.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric D. Bertram whose telephone number is (571)272-3446. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl H. Layno can be reached on 571-272-4949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric D. Bertram/
Examiner, Art Unit 3766